# THE MEXICAN LOURDES.

Many Wonderful Cures Effected by Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Pilgrims Flock to the Shrine by Thousands - Picturesque Scenes Around the Handsome Chapel. The Strange Legend of the Well.

The Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, near the City of Mexico, is one of the handsomest edifices of its kind in the world. It is the shrine of Mexico's national saint, and has obtained a local celebrity for miraculous cures almost equal to the fame of the ancient church at Lourdes France and the shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre, in Quebec, Can-

Travel-stained, worn, and weary more than 3,000 people last week toiled up the steep hill to the Mexican church one of the frequent pilgrimages of which the shrine is the object. At their head, followed by his priests and acolytes, all chanting the prayers of the Church, was the Bishop of Zacatecas, Behind him came the long procession.

There were some there who were fairly well-dressed, and well-to-do, but by far the greater part were men and women who had used their last "centavo" and sold their few personal effects in order to pay the railroad fare thither. How they would get home they did not know-walk and beg as they went, they thought-but they were happy in having seen the miraculous tilma, and in having prayed before its shrine. The sight of the wonderful cloth and its marvelous picture more than atoned for the privations, past and to come, that the long trip entailed.

To the Mexican "peon" a pilgrimage to the shrine of the nation's saint is as much a duty as it is for the Mohammedan to visit Mecca. The pilgrimage last week was the first of the new century, and was planned by the Bishop of Zacatecas months ago. A long time for preparation was needed, for when men work for the equivalent of 12 cents a day, American money, it takes a long time to save up enough to pay railroad fares for a trip of hundreds of miles.

The church on the hill was far too small to hold all the pilgrims at one time, and while those who could not gain admittance to the church were waiting their turn, they visited the Chapel of the Well, and prayed before the scores of votive shrines which are most line the main approach to the church.

But the place that attracted most of There they hastened to drink of the waters of the spring which came from the rock at the spot where the Virgin first appeared to the poor Indian. To the mortal who is disinclined to believe in miracles this water is anything but pleasant. It is brackish, strong with soda, and just warm enough to emphasize its unpleasant qualities.

The story of this national shrine of Hef which the Mexican peon has in every miracle that it is said to have performed is firm. According to the accounts, the blind have been made to ser, the lame to walk, and the deaf to left behind by these miraculously cured cripples, and by the offerings and inscriptions which have been placed in to pay for a record of their cure. And yet, at the door of the cathedral and at about and beg for alms. Perhaps they the many pilgrims.

story, Juan Diego, an Indian convert, was on his way to hear service which fathers. It was the morning of December 9, 1531. To reach the church from his home at Toipetlac he had to pass the hill of Tepeyac. That morning as he approached the eastern side of the hill he heard music which sounded to him like a chorus of birds. He stopped to listen, and as he did so he saw a cloud of all the colors of the rainbow, and in the midst of it a beautiful lady She called to him and he bowed before her. Then she said:

"Know, my son, that I am the Virgin Mary, mother of the true God. My will is that a temple should be built on this spot, where you and all your race will always be able to find me and seek my ald in your troubles. Go to the Bishop and in my name tell what you have seen and heard. Tell him, too, that it is my wish that a church be built here. and for doing this you will be repaid with many graces,

Juan hurried with his story to the Bishop, but found little attention paid to wfiat he said. Then he started home, but at the same spot again saw the Virgin. He told her of the ill-success of his errand, and she replied that he must not be downhearted, but repost her message to the Bishop on the following day.

The next day was Sunday, and after hearing mass Juan found the Bishop. This time he was told that if he saw the beautiful lady again he was to ask for sign. When he left the house the Bishop told some of his servants to follow the Indian. They did so, but when he reached the fill he disappeared, and the servants, unable to see him, reported that he was an impostor.

But while Juan was invisible to the servants, he was again in conversation with the Virgin. He told her that the Bishop had required a sign, and she promised him that on the next morn ing she would give him one. But Juan did not come back in the morning. At home he found his uncle sick, and he remained with him two days. Then, on the 12th of December, he started to go to confession, and again passed the hill of Tepeyac. But he was afraid of being reproached by the lady for not having done as she told him, and so he

avoided the spot where he had seen her. This did not avail him, for at the spot where the Chapel of the Well now stands she appeared to him. She did not reproach him, but told him to climb to the top of the hill and fill his tilma, cloth cloak, with the roses would find growing there. Juan knew that the hill was only a mass of rock, and that no flowers grew on it, but he did as he was told.

At the summit of the hill he found a

great bush laden with roses. He gathered them all, and, placing them in his tilma, took them to the Bishop. When he had told his story to the prelate, he opened his tilma to show the flowers. The roses fell to the floor, and then i was seen that on the tilma was a pic ture of the Virgin as she had appeared to the Indian. The Bishop fell on hi knees, and after some time in prayer took the tilma and placed it over his private altar.

The Bishop-Zumarraga was his name at once set to work and built the chapel, now the cathedral, at the foot of the hill. When it was completed the vonderful tilma was hung above the altar. There it has remained ever since only being removed when some of the extensive alterations were being made to the place. On the summit of the hill where Juen had gathered the miracuous reses was built another chapel, and still a third was erected over the well or spring which came from the rocks and marked the place where the Virgin had appeared to the Indian for the fourth time.

Accepted by the local clergy and implicitly believed in by the people, the attention of the Pope was called to the miracle. In 1663 it was recognized, and in 1754, it was fully sanctioned and con-1736, after the image of the Virgin and the picture on the tilma were believed to have done away with the pestilence which was raging, the Virgin of Guadalupe had been selemnly elected by the Church and people as their patroness. Hidalgo, too, took a picture of this Vir gin for his banner when he began the war for independence, and she accordingly became the protectress of the rev-

olution. In 1822 Iturbide, then Emperor, created an Order of the Virgin of Guada lupe as his highest decoration, and afterward Felix Fernandez, the first President, changed his name to Guadalup Victoria, Later, in 1824, Congress decreed the 12th of December to be a national holiday.

The church of Guadalupe is now one of the handsomest in the world, so experts declare, so much money has there been spent upon it. But it is in the tilma itself that the interest centres. And this old Indian garment is certainly a marvel. It is the same kind of half poncho, half blanket, that is worn by the Indians today. It is of the roughest material, coarsely woven, with irregular meshes. On this the picture appears, showing exactly alike on each side of the cloth. Artists and scientific everywhere on the hill, and which al- men of high standing have examined it and have testified under oath that it is of no known style of art and that there is no other picture in the world which the visitors was the Chapel of the Well. has the same characteristics. On different parts of the canvas are to be found four different kinds of painting, while the gilding seems to be rather woven into the garment than painted upon it.

But, perhaps, most marvelous of all is the remarkable preservation of the tilma and the picture upon it. No attempt has ever been made to clean it, and yet it is as fresh as though it was new and not almost 400 years old. And during those four centuries it has been Mexico is no more strange than the be- exposed without any covering to the smoke of censers and candles and to the damp air of the church, which, filled with saltpetre, corrodes the most solid substances and has rotted away heavy alter hangings of the finest silk hear. These cures are attested by the These have to be replaced every few canes and crutches which have been | years, but the strange tilma remains fresh and strong in the midst of all.

To describe the beauty of the church which has been erected as a home for the chapel by those who could afford this marvel would be practically an impossible task. The statues and the paintings have been executed by the every shrine on the hill will be found finest artists who could be found in Eucripples who drag themselves slowly rope, Artists were brought from France to paint the freecoes on the walls, and have no desire to be cured, and are better satisfied to subsist on the charity of
been spent on the smaller details alone.

make a speech, swings gently to and
measured seven feet square and was two
feet deep. The second "straw" was even

The lexend on which has been built expended and of the richness of the fingers, or a friend's fingers, or smooths this devout belief has been investigat- decorations may be obtained from the the fur on its ear or eyebrow. It should the brim, and three feet round the crown; ed and approved as true by the Church | crown which hangs in front of the tilma at Rome, and it has received the official and just above the head of the painted sanction of the Congress of the Mexi- Virgin. This was manufactured in can Government. According to the Paris. The rim at the base represents the twenty-two Bishoprics of Mexico each one being designated by a shield was being held by the Franciscan of solid gold. Above comes a circle of of angels issuing from roses. Between the angels, and supported by them, are six shields for the six Archbishoprics of

> At the top is an enameled globe, on which Mexico is symbolically shown. Above this is the Mexican eagle, grasping the globe with one talon, while with other he holds aloft a diamond cross. At the top of the cross is a ring by which a golden cherub holds the crown above the picture. The entire grown is of solid gold and weighs many pounds. All the shields are surrounded with diamonds, and in the breast of each angel is a huge ruby. Almost the entire remainder of the surface is cov-

> ed with sapphires and emeralds. But to all this wealth in the church the poor pilgrim peons paid little attention. A realization of it was beyond heir simple minds. What they came to ee and what they bowed and prayed sefore was the picture of the Virgin on the tilma. Once they had performed that duty they were happy, even tho they should have to beg their

### A BUTTON BLUNDER.

English War Office Spends \$5,000

and Gets Nothing. Our military man-milliners of Pall Mall have just made a little mistake over but-

Only buttons, but it might just as well have been guns. When the King ascended the throne some one discovered that it was neces ary to change the buttons of the British

There happened to be a little war in There happened to be a little war in South Africa at the time-and there is still—but it paled at once into nothingness beside this question of buttons.

For weeks the clerks of zeveral departments spent their spart time between lunch and 4 oclock in feverish activity. Notes had to be written copied, docketed, tied up with red tape, and filed Pourparlers were exchanged between departments.

ed, fied up with red tape, and fied, routparlers were exchanged between departments.

Men who could not be stirred by mere
battles found their veins tingling with excitement over buttons.

Several inventors of new and ingenious
buttons calculated to strike terror into the
hearis of the King's enemies were chased
down Pail Mail, and other things were
done to prove that the War Office really
had this great question in hand.

At last a truce between contending departments, each abxious to prove its efliclency and ability in this momentuous
matter, was arrived at. One button was
chosen and sent to the King, who at once
signified his approval.

Again the great machine moved. Orders
were sent to manufacturers and by thousands the button began to return to the
army clothing people at Pimilco.

But, alas! a mistake had been made.
After all the button, over which strong
men had fought and wept, was not sent
to the makers.

By a "regrettable accident" a wrong
cesign found its way to Sheffield and
£1,000 worth were made before the mistake was discovered.

Business men might have found a use
for those buttons, but Pall Mail, with its
truly paternal regard for the least important details of Tommy's equipment,
sent them all straight back to the meiting
pot.—London Express.

# SOME STRANGE ANIMALS.

Large Number of Creatures Without Either Race or Family.

The Kinkajou, Aye-Aye, Colugo, and Tarsier Are Weird Beasts-Some Structural Puzzles in Zoology-Specimens Which Defy Nature

In the not very long list of the living races of animals are a not inconsiderable number of instances of creatures not conforming to any other race or family. They are not "links," and often not like anything else in creation. Accidental evidence of this detachment and nonconformity is forthcoming whenever old and new natural histories are compared. The general arrangement of the orders and families corre sponds, but these nondescript detached creatures are constantly shifted or 'moved on" to some other position deemed more in keeping with recent discoveries as to their anatomy, or more rarely, their habits. Some of these animals are so beautiful and interesting in themselves that were it not for th form of obligation which the doctrine firmed by a Papal bull. Before that, in of evolution has laid upon students of nature to find a particular place in the schedule of life and a pigeonhole in the bureau of creation for each individual creature, we might well be content to regard them as equisite and highly specialized beings whose very existence is evidence of the perfection to which nature can bring a single and isolated creation with, as it were, no practice beforehand, no "studies" prior to making the single masterplece, and no gradual approaches to the final and onclusive product. The nondescript creatures are, owing to the operation of causes not yet perfectly understood, always scarce in numbers, and difficult see or catch; when they are caught they are seldom brought to England, and when they arrive, have such uncouth native names that they attract little attention,

> The kinkajou is among the most attractive of any of the detached creations, but to most minds it only represents a name in natural history books. Two of these animals are in the collection of the Zoological Society at the present moment, and were it not for their polite but dreamy disinclination to do more than oblige visitors by let ting themselves be handled during the day, much might be learned of their habits. It is only at night that they display the full charms of their disposttion and accomplishments; but even seen by daylight they are obviously almost the most desirable of possible pets which the world contains. To describe a creature so unlike any other is necessarily no easy task, but the tamest of these kinkajous is so serenely confident that man is a friend, if not a brother kinkajou, that it affords every facility for making a careful inspection of its beauties. It is covered from its head to the tip of its very long tail with close fur as soft as moss, with texture like plush, and tints varying from olive brown on the back to "old gold" under its arms, storach, and the lower or short, and exquisitely furred. Its hands are beautifully made, plump and soft, spreading its arms and little fore hands on either side as if it were going to be said that its head is short, its muzzle somewhat pointed, its ears round and upright, and its eyes brown and dreamy, with the pupils contracted to feeding creature. Its length is perhaps two and a half feet, and its home is in the tropical forests of Central and South America. Why it should hold on to its tall as if the latter were a rope, the end of which was not connected with its body, is not obvious, nor is it the nails, yet it lives in trees, and is said to thrust its long tongue into all kinds of crevices and draw thence the insects and beetles hiding there. The Spaniards in Mexico called it the "honey bear." because it robs the wild bees' nests and licks up the honey from the comb. One kept for seven years at the "Zoo" would hold a piece of bread and butter in one hand, and break off and eat bits with the other, as it hung in its favorite attitude, suspended by its tail, and drew in food through the wires of its cage with its tongue. At

affection. Three other "odd volumes" of the animal world are generally found placed more or less in juxtaposition in the list of "various" between the lemurs and whatever family is selected to follow them. These are the aye-aye, the colugo, and the tarsier, strange names and stranger beasts. The first is a thickly furred, slow-moving, long-tailed, treeliving beast, found in the most inaccessible parts of Madagascar, Like most other rare animals from that home of abnormal life, it was first described by French naturalists, who from the proximity of their colony at Reunion always seem to have endeavored to learn something of the strange fauna of the great island near them. It is quite unlike any other animal, has no "affinities," and the most extraordipary, weird, and skeleton hands. In addition to their being twice too large for it body, they are almost fleshless, with very long, thin fingers. These are armed with claw-like nails. One finger the central one, seems to have become atrophied and withered, and all the fingers are of different lengths, like the implements in one of those knives which hold every tool from a corkscrew to a toothpick. Apparently this "job lot" of fingers is employed much in the same way, some to pick out fat grubs from holes in the bamboo stems, some to clean its fur, the fourth finger (the largest and longest) to thrust into any moist food, like rice, and pick it up, the other two to keep it in its place. It also drinks by dipping the longest finger into liquid and sucking it. These peculiarities by no means exhaust the "points" of the aye-aye. The name is said to be taken from the exclamation of surprise uttered by the natives (who

night it was full of play, activity, and

had never seen one) when M. Sonnerat first discovered it. In 1831 there was only one specimen in Europe.

If the aye-aye is a structural puzzle the colugo is equally difficult to place in any order. It was first thought to be a bat, for it hung like a bat from the branches of trees in the Moluccas. Then it was pronounced to be a flying squirrel, next a lemur, and now may fairly be called a nondescript. It is as large as a cat, is covered with soft, lemur like fur, but has a parachute, not only between the forelegs and hindlegs, as flying squirrels have, but also between the hindlegs, like a bat-"a strange and perplexing animal," as an early naturalist plaintively remarked. The tarsier is not less so. "Spectrum" is its name and its appearance is weird and fantastic. It has a tail like a piece of foxtail grass, hands and toes with flat discs like a tree frog, enormous eyes, upright ears, and a woolly body. Its mere ap pearance scares the Javanese peasants from their rice fields in fear of the "evil eye," though it appears to live mainly on lizards and to be quite harmless.

#### HATS OF THE MIGHTY.

History and Anecdotes About the

Stovepipe and Its Wearers. Ever stace a certain John Hetheringto on January 15, 1788, appeared in the Strand wearing, to quote a newspaper re-port of the period, upon his head "what he called a silk hat, a tall structure having a shiny lustre and calculated to frighten timid people," the top hat which quote the "Thunderer" of the sam late, was "destined to work a revolution in headgear," has been the headgear of the mighty: and in the case of Joseph Hume, the political reformer and financier, and some others, a mighty headgear Joseph Hume, says the "Globe," in one of its chatty Turnover, who, when Member of Parliament for Middlesex, pro-posed in 1834 a fixed duty on imported corn, apparently had the largest head of any man famous in English history, judging from some interesting statistics re specting the headpieces of celebrities which were forwarded, together with a traveling cap, by an admirer to Mr. Glad-stone in 1857. His size in hats, indeed, was 315. or half a size larger than that of Dr. Thomson, who succeeded Archbishop Longley at York, and of Daniel O'Connell, whose head covering, which was on view a few years ago at a meeting of the Coun-ty Kildare Archaeological Society at

Nass, measured eight and a half inches in width and ten inches in its longest diam-eter, and was of sufficient dimensions completely to extinguish the chairman of the meeting as far as the chin when he elected to try it on. Following Daniel O'Connell in the size of headgear comes Dr. Thomas Chalmers, the eminent the ogian and one of the few Britons who have been elected members of the French Institute, and following him W. Thackeray, who was a short head, in sporting parlance, in front of Mr. Gladstone, Charles Dickens, and Robert Burns, whose head was never graced by a tall silk hat, for the poet died exactly six months before the happening of the stir-ring event that marked the occasion of

birth of the tall hat. The painstaking correspondent of the Grand Old Man did not conclude his staistical record of headpieces with Burns, but extended it so far as to record the fact that our King Edward VII requires a No. 7 head covering, his nephew of Ger many a hat bearing the mystic figures 6% the late Dean Stanley a 6% "tile," and the Duke of Cornwall and York a "topper" of flattened side of its tail. Its legs and the proportions represented by the size 6% shoulders are soft and rounded, rather —information that the original recipient found, as he mentioned when acknowledge ing the gift, "full of interest." Large as like a baby's, with bare fingers and palms. By preference it passes the tip with a counter of stress bate much in the with a couple of straw hats made in 1899 of its tail around its visitor's hand, and and last year at Luton, appear almost inthen slides down its own tall, lowering significant. In the one case the crown of itself by its hind-hands or feet. Then it the straw erection measured about twelve hangs at full length, still holding onto inches high, and across the brim the its tail by its hind hands, which just measurement was six and a half feet; the reach comfortably about an inch and hat, which required the services of three a half from the base of the tall, and experienced men to block and iron it, con tained no fewer than 200 yards of jumbo plait one inch wide, and the hat box in which it traveled to Newcastle (Australia) An idea of the money which has been long ribbon-like tongue and licks its larger, for it measured over seven feet moreover, it contained 250 yards of dark blue and white jumbo plait, and no fewer than four men of vast experience were occupied in its manufacture. Wearing this, the largest hat in the world, even Laa mere point, for though not so drugged blache, the great singer ,who, overcome in sleep as the lemurs, it is a night-with emotion, once entered the royal presence wearing a hat on his head and carrying one in his hand, could not have be come oblivious to its presence. It will be recalled by some old playgoers that when Queen Victoria, desirous perhaps of putting the great basso of the century and her old tutor at his ease, laughingly re-marked: "Monsieur Lablache, you have certain how it obtains its living. Its got one hat too many," the singer wittils little fingers are webbed almost up to and promptly replied: "Pardon, your Majesty, there are two hats too many for a man who has lost his head. In the early days of the last century

the "topper" of the period was styled a "castor," a title that give rise to the retort uttered by the first Baron Chelmsford when coming away from a reception with Lord Cockburn and Sir Frederick Pollock. Said Cockburn, Chief Justice: "I can't find my castor." "Then try Pollock's," rejoined the lord chancellor. When the century closed M. Carolus Duran styled the unpopular but only head covering worn by polite made society in town, "the last word of the horrible," but, notwithstanding the vituperations of the arifstic and the slang of the period, the top hat continues on is career, undeterred by the hard things said about it. The reason of this lies in the startling tort uttered by the first Baron Chelmsford The reason of this lies in the startling fact that the "topper," though most east by damaged, is one of the most indestruct ible of things—a fact that ought to prov-

fact that the "topper," though most easily damaged, is one of the most indestructible of things-a fact that ought to prove consoling to those members of Parliament who, like Sir F. Powell in 187, after delivering a crushing speech, likewise crush their top hats by sitting on them, or have them crushed by others. This was the fortune of some unfortunate wight a few sessions ago, the culprit being Lord Stanley, who, inadvertently passing between the Speaker and the member addressing him, was assailed with such 'shouts of 'Order!' 'Order!' that he hastily sat down, alas! on an immaculate office that grant the hastily sat down, alas! on an immaculate office that the hastily sat down, alas! on an immaculate office that the hastily sat down, alas! on an immaculate office that the hastily sat down and the maculate office of the hards of experienced renovators and duly steamed and reshellacked, it may be asked what becomes of all those hats that are not transported to Australia of to Africa, to be proudly donned by the arriess savage. The natives have been seen off the west coast of the latter continent, swimming out to incoming steamers, such man wearing a renovators. The answer to this question could be supplied, perhaps, in bated breath by many—they are collected. It seems, perhaps, incredible that any man should care to turn his house into a museum of "shocking bad hats," but it is done none the less, as is evidenced by the startling prices that some famous hats attain, such, for instance, as the sum £300 in gold paid for the Mexican sombrero presented to General Grant while he was in that country in 1882. This now rests in the National Museum at Washington, where, if we remmeber rightly, reposes the headgear worn by President Lincoln on the night of his assassination in Ford's Theatre, and is considered the finest specimen of its kind extant. It does not matter in what state of disrepair the hat may be or the material out of which it was rashioned, the collector is influenced in his regard only by the degree of ce

niqueness of his near coverings.
When Baron Christiani damaged the
eadgear of President Loubet at the Aueuil racecourse a few years ago an enter-

# ODD PROBLEMS IN CRIME

Many Chances Given an Accused Man to Go Free.

Opportunities Are All With the Criminal-Difficulties Encountered in Punishing Guilty Parties-Of. fenders Often Escape Penalties.

"The death of Superintendent Gaster,

who was for so many years prominent among the thief-catchers, recalls a rather interesting penological problem," said a bright young attorney who is connected with the New Orleans bar, "and when we come to weigh the facts the wonder is trat the arms of the law are not fre quently palsied when reached out gather in the person who offends the es tablished rules of society. There are what penological authorities have been pleases to call the coefficients of impunity, and, hile the term may be without meaning to the layman, there is nevertheless be hind it a group of facts which mean much when it comes to the protection of life and property, and to social safety generally. Rules of conduct drafted with the elemn sanction of the social unit, by the supreme power of the State, may not be violated with impunity without endanger-ing the peace and order of civilization. The death of a man who has spent the best years of his life in hunting and catching criminals calls attention afresh to the various avenues of escape which our pres the specialist will have a clearer under standing of the fact than the common run of men, and yet the facts need only to be stated to be understood. No doubt during Chief Gaster's service as a thief-catche he could have recalled, when his own record was closing, many instances where noted and well-defined criminals had escaped the punishment prescribed by the law for one reason and another.
"In the first place the offender has a

chance to escape detection after he has committed his offence against the law. He seeks the dark places where no human eye can see him. He tolls between the suns, when the evelids of the honest are pressed down in quiet repose. Thus the first avenue of escape opens up to him, and detection, in spite of the wise precau-tion of modern police methods, becomes a matter of chance. How much unrecovered property was pilfered during Gaster's con-nection with the New Orleans Police Deuartment? How many houses have been the robbers? How many watches, coats, umbrellas, and other like property have been purioined by the nimble-fingered gentry with the noiseless tread? How many robberies on the highway? How many blood and brain-bespattered bludgeons are lying in the archives with their secrets still unraveled? This is merely illustrative, and no doubt the brave chief who has just laid down his life after a long and faithful service could have recalled many cases of criminals who had operated so skillfully that they left no trace that would lead to detection and arrest. The point is that the fault does not lie with the officials, but rather is it to with the officials, but rather is it to be found in the weakness of a system. But this is only one avenue out of many. The police may be vigilant and they may apprehend the offender, and yet, accord ing to my way of viewing the matter, he still has a good chance to escape punish-ment, and the percentage seems to be

against the State. will assume that the offender is arrested," the lawyer continued, "and we will still find a few things which seem to militate against the Commonwealth, There are certain constitutional guaran-tees, and of course no man would dare attack these fundamental safeguards, for the person who is merely accused of crime is not necessarily a criminal. There is the presumption of innocence which stands as a silent witness for the accused until it is overcome by such a proponderance of proof as to leave no reasonable hypothesis except that of guilt. This means to give the accused the benefit of the doctrine of reasonable doubt. No good lawyer, no humane citizen will attack this Yet we must remember that this very just principle tends to give the accused an advantage over the state. It is a great leverage in the hands of a skillful pleader. It is easy to conjure with the English language, and specious pleas are easily relied from an elly tengue. So this slient witness may sometimes be used to cheat the State out of the State's deserts, and may compass the escape of a hardenany examples of this sort. There is another advantage right on the threshold of the trial, and the fact is found in the

number of peremptory challenges allowed the accuser in the selection of the jury,

the accuser in the selection of the jury, a number in most of the States far in ex-

cess of the number allowed the Govern

ment. So here we find another fact stand

ing out in our system of criminal proced ure which militates against the State tends to increase the possibilities of escape so far as the criminal is concerned. 'This opens up the possibilities of pack-ing the jury, a thing which too often happens in some of the commercial centres of the country. The accused may or may not go on the stand, just as he pleases. He may be heard himself, or by counsel, or he may balk the State by sitting in silence during the whole proceeding. stances are not unknown to the lawyers who have a criminal practice where this has offered an avenue of escape. We must allow for errors in the jury's finding, errors that may be honest or dishonest we must allow for the errors that may slip innocently or corruptly into the charge of the law by the trial judge; we must figure, too, that the offender may escape before the committing magistrate, for one reason or another, or that the grand jury may fail to indict, or that witnesses may be corrupted, or that the jall-er or some other officer charged with the keeping of the offender may commit some error that will lead to the offender's es cape. And so we see one averlue after another opening to the man who is accused of offending the laws of his country. These facts present to my mind an vocate harshness in the matter of handing crime and criminals, there is a

hance at least for some slight improvement in the system. "I am only speculating about these matters," the lawyer continued, "and to my mind it opens up an interesting field. The police records are full of mysteries. There are many unknowns to be found scribbled will pay a sufficient revenue to meet all across the pages of the complaint book. the expenses of the city government of are many 'unknowns' to be found scribbled 'An unknown negro' or 'an unknown man' Baker City and afford many improve loes this and that and the other. 'An ments now greatly needed by this rapidly unknown man' may be found with his growing little city. For instance, the skull cracked, dead in the street, dead at town is in urgent need of a good sewerage the crossing of a railroad, or dead some-where else. 'An unknown man' may be ments and systematic street sprinkling where else. 'An unknown man' may be ments and systematic street sprinkling found floating in the river, with every during the dry months. It is also proevidence that he had been foully dealt with, but with no clue to the offender. permanent mineral palace, to be con 'An unknown man' may enter in the night structed of gold and silver ores and to and rob, and steal, and commit a hundred other offences against the laws of the country. Go to the police \(\psi\)-cadquarters in any of the large cities and scan the records. What an awful array of bloody mysteries one will find scrawled across the yellowing pages

known' offender, the fellow who does his deed well and leaves no clue that would ead to his detection and arrest. The constant repetition of these things causes the police in a way to become callous to things which stir the soul of the average

best of it when it comes to the moder system of laws. Up at police headquar ters I guess one could find many old bludgeons, and pistois, and knives, and other murderous things, and each could tell a tale of its own if the truth were them have accumulated during the morthan a quarter of a century that Dexte S. Gaster was connected with the New Orleans police department, in spite of his vigilance and courage in hunting and catching criminals.—New Orleans Times-

#### ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION.

The Britons Admit That Some of Their Dialects Are Unintelligible. During the last few days we have pub shed a number of letters complaining of prevalent errors in the pronunciation of English. Our correspondents point out that consonants and vowels are constantly so clipped and slurred over-not always by uneducated persons—that their speech is either unintelligible or very disagree-able to listen to. These sins against the richest and, on the whole, the most descriptive, if not the most musical, of modto the sensitive ear, and are in an entirely different category from mere pro-vincialisms, which are often historically and philologically interesting, even when they are harsh or uncouth. Local pronunciations are, fideed, always with us There was a Cockrey dialect, as readers of "Pickwick" will remember, three-quarters of a century ago, though it differed considerably from that now in vogue. "Put it down a we. My Lord," has ceased o be appropriate. The elusive which is "whispered in heaven and muttered in hell" is, perhaps, less generall; overlooked than once it was, but if the odern Cockney manages to avoid Sam Weller's troubles with certain sounds, he falls quite as constantly into others which are distinctly more offensive. It is impossible to save one's ears from such words as "lydy" and "Benk."

The trouble, however, goes deeper than this. Not only are vowels pronounced wrongly, but consonants are dropped, and whole words slurred over. Some correspondents blame the teachers in the schools, but, after all, their pronunciateachers in the tion, though on the whole much better than that of the children, can hardly be perfect, and, in any case, they have to struggle in a few hours of class time against the permanent influence of home As the parents speak, so do the children except that they contract additional faults from the lower educational platform of the street. Children are mimics, and, unfortunately, are more prone to imitate the wrong than the right. Even in the most refined household it is difficult to prevent them copying the faulty pronunciation of the servants. So sub-tle is the influence of the ear that even adults do not find it easy to keep quite ree from local intonation. Even peers bishops, and highly educated dignitaries ometimes retain traces of the accent of their native county; while that of Scot-land and Ireland is yet more persistent. The modern method of pronouncing English, even by the best standards, no doubt lays careless speakers peculiarly liable solecisms. Our pronunciation has unjuestionably undergone serious changes during the last two or three centuries; and, whatever may once have been the case, English is now spoken upon a system entirely different from that of the

Continental tongues. Most of the European languages give word is correctly slient, ignorance and carelessness are certain to extend the liberty. English is by no means unmusicsweetness of Russian, or what Charles V is reputed to have considered the lovemaking qualities of Italian; but, on the other hand, it certainly is not a landar land our consonants no more get their due than who has any familiarity with modern languages derived from Latin will admit, To which, it is likely enough, was at one time | ian of the city's rights and the r e a great extent. But it is often more difficult to understand the words used "in those which come from the pulpit of the doubt, from sheer carelessness and inabil-ity to appreciate the difference between graceful speech and slurred sentences-

### CITY OWNS VALUABLE MINE.

Pays Municipal Expenses and

Provides Improvements. Not many towns or cities have a water system which is a veritable gold mine, but that is the condition of Baker City. nearly completed it was discovered this summer that the flow of water was not sufficient to meet the demands of the city, | ted to the Tower, and, though h and the council issued more bonds and which brings a large supply of water eight miles from the city. The water is excellent, there is plenty of it, and it will soon be connected with the main water All this is very well, but there is some-

thing distinctly peculiar about the new water system of Baker City. The title to the Auburn Ditch carries with it the title to the celebrated Neison placer mines, situnted eight or ten miles west of the city, and in securing the water the city als acquired a gold mine, probably the first owned by any municipality in the United States. These mines have been leased in the past, year by year, to peo-ple who have taken out good returns ev-ery season. This year the owners have made a good clean-up. Next year the city can operate the mine itself or lease the privilege to others.

It is estimated by a mining man of experience that the Nelson placer mines posed to erect in Baker City next year show to a stranger the exact location and character of all the different kinds of ore, "All cities are alike in this respect. The gold, silver, copper, coal, nickel, kaolin history of every police department has asphaltum, and the location and descripits long and tedious chapters on the 'un- tion of all the working mines and pros

pects.

It is believed that the rental or proceeds from the Nelson placers, which in such peculiar manner became the proper-ty of Eaker City, will run the city and things which sir the soul of the average man. Really, the 'unknown' offender is the most numerous of his lik, and this proves the point which I had in mind, and that the offender has just a shade the

# PARLIAMENT'S ODD RULES

How the British Commons Punishes Breaches of Privileges.

The House Wields an Autocratic Authority Over All Subjects-Nu. merous Cases Preceding That of the London Globe-Odd Methods,

In a democratic country where for very injury there is a legal remode here is something strange and in is in the fact that the House of Cemmons-the very body which personities the liberties of the nation-can yet be fritue of that mysterious power known as Parliamentary privilege wield an au tocratic authority uncontrolled by lav cessity that the highest authority in the kingdom should have power to uphobi its own dignity and independence; though the need is obvious, yet the injus-tice of the same body being at once accuser and judge has led in the past to many strange conflicts, in which, by a curious transformation, the House Commons has appeared as the arbitrary oppressor, while its opponents have been

sufferers in the cause of freedom.

Parliamentary annals furnish no more urious example of this strange perversion of the accustomed order than the case of the "Aylesbury Burgesses" in case of the "Aylesbury Burgesses" in 1704. Ashley, a Burgess of Aylesbury, brought an action against the returning officer for refusing his vote, and obtained a verdict; the Court of Queen's Beach, however, decided that an "action did not lie," as all matters relating to elections of Commons; but on appeal this decision was reversed by the Lords, to the great indignation of the Commons. Five more Burgesses then commenced action, and were all committed to Newgate by the an gry Commons, while the Lords, maintaining their novel character as defenders of the oppressed, passed a defiant resolution that the rights and freedom of Englishmen ought not to be subject to arbitrary otes of the House of Commons. A prorogation put an end to the dispute, leaving the constitutional question unsettled. The reign of George III saw several interesting struggles on questions of privi-lege, notably the conflict with the city over the publication of the debates, in

which the celebrated Wilkes played a prominent part. Two printers named Thompson and Wheble were ordered to attend at the bar of the House to answer for the misrepresentation of certain speeches in their respective newspapers. Neither, however, appeared. The messenger of the House went eight times in our afternoon to Wheble's house, and each time was told he had just stepped out, but a curious fact that though the House's messenger may legally break open a door to arrest a person he may not wait in the house if the person is absent for the pur-nose of arresting him on his return. This point was finally settled in 1842, when Mr. Howard obtained damages against the Sergeant-at-Arms on this very account.

The irritated Commons addressed the King, who issued a proclamation for the apprehension of the offenders, but in the eantime Colonel Onslow made a further complaint against six more printers, who were accordingly all summoned to the bar. The question was most fiercely dethe proper value to every syllable, almost to every lettery. Where so much of a word is correctly silent, ignorance and ken. The difficulties in which the House would be involved were clearly pointed out, Charles James Fox remarking: "You al, when it is treated according to its deserts. It lacks, it is true, the melodious sweetness of Russian, or what Charles V Will the spirits come when you call

brought before the Lord Mayor, vowels. People have long acquiesced in Crosby, and Aldermen Wilkes and Oliver, maitreating the latter; but of the two, and committed to prison on the ground consonants are the more important for that he was not a peace officer, and that distinctness in speaking, as everyone the warrant was not backed by a city magistrate. The Lord Mayor, being or-dered to attend in his place in the House elide as much of a word as possible is not to answer for his violation of privilege, merely to speak indistinctly and ungrace-fully, but to help that clipping process tic crowd, who hailed him as the "guardliberties." After days of debate, both the Some correspondents blame the ciergy for defective speech, and not without justice. Mayor and Alderman Oliver were committed to the Tower. Wilkes, the prime mover in the mischief, was summe hoirs and places where they sing" than Ministers, with more discretion than valor, adjourned the House till the 9th. The Mayor was only released by the prorogaoclety sin in this respect, chiefly, no tion when the whole Common Coun went in a procession of carriages to the Tower and fetched him away in triumpa, while salutes were fired by the City Artillery Company and at night all London was illuminated.

Among the striking cases of privilege in more recent times, that of Sir Francis Burdett, who referred to the House as "a part of our fellow-subjects collected together by means which it is not necessary mine, to describe," aroused the greatest excitement. Sir Francis barricaded himself in About a year ago Baker City issued bonds his house against the Sergeant-at-Arms, to the amount of \$100,000 and established who only forced his way in after a three a gravity water system to supply the city days' siege, with the assistance of the from Elk Creek, ten miles away in the military, and discovered Sir Francis, with nountains. After the new system was a truly dramatic sense of the situation, Magna Charta. Sir Francis was commitactions against the Speaker and the Serpurchased the celebrated Auburn Ditch, geant-at-Arms, the courts decided in fa-A conflict between the House and the

courts, however, grose in 1837, Stockdale brought an action for libel against Hansard, who pleaded the order of the House in defence. The court rejected the plea, whereon Stockdale was and on his bringing a fresh action against Hansard, was sent, with his attorney, to Newgate, where he solaced his imprisonment by bringing yet another action. The Commons did not proceed to commit the judges of the Court of Queen's Beach to prison, though they could have found a precedent for doing so in the Stuart times, and the matter was settled by the passing of an act of Parliament to meet the difficulty.

The last case of privilege in which offenders have been summoned to the bar of the House occurred in 1802, when the directors and manager of the Cambrian Railway were ordered to attend, and were olemnly admonished by the Speaker for their action in dismissing one of their ervants, John Hood, for giving evidence before the Select Committee on the hours

of railway servants. In old days offenders at the bar were compelled to receive sentence on their tnees, but in 1751 Mr. Alexander Murray obstinutely refused to adopt this humailiating posture, and though he was sent to Newgate for his contumacy the practice was never again insisted on.

Apropos of the present case of privilege t is curious to note that, though it is a breach of privilege to charge members with corruption in the transaction of their Parliamentary duties, it has been formally decided that it is no breach of privilege to charge them with inciting to murder in their private capacity. In 1887 the "Times" remarked on the inclusion of Parliament of a "body of men whose political existence depends upon an organ-ized system of midnight murder." but the passage being quoted in the Speaker decided that it did not constitute a breach of privilege. Truly, Parliamentary privilege, as was remarked at the outset, is a strange and incongruous

thing!-London Chronicle.